

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

MAILED

JUN 14 2006

U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS
AND INTERFERENCES

BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS
AND INTERFERENCES

Ex parte JAMES L. HOBART, DANIEL K. NEGUS
and DAN E. ANDERSEN

Application 09/018,104

ORDER RETURNING UNDOCKETED APPEAL TO EXAMINER

This application was electronically received at the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences on May 10, 2006. A review of the application has revealed that the application is not ready for docketing as an appeal. Accordingly, the application is herewith being returned to the examiner. The matters requiring attention prior to docketing are identified below.

An Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) was filed June 17, 2005. It is not apparent from the record that the examiner considered the statement submitted nor notified applicants of why his submission did not meet the criteria set forth in 37 CFR §§ 1.97 and 1.98.

Application 09/018,104

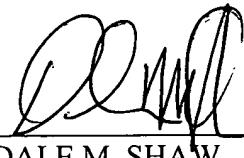
Further, the Examiner's Answer mailed on January 10, 2006, has no indication that an appeal conference has been conducted. According to the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP) § 1208 (8th ed., August 2001), when an appeal conference has been held, the appeal conference participants must identify themselves as the conferees, along with placing their initials next to their name.

Accordingly, it is

ORDERED that the application is being electronically returned to the Examiner for consideration of the Information Disclosure Statement, for taking corrective action regarding the appeal conference, and for such further action as may be appropriate.

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By:


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GJH

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